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25 January 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: File

FROM : Chief, Alien Affairs Staff  
SUBJECT : Radio Free Europe Legislation - HR 10-400

As a result of a conversation with Commissioner Farrell of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in which he suggested that some thought be given to the possibility of having a bill like the Rodino Bill, HR 10-400, introduced in the Senate possibly by Senator Eastland, and inasmuch as Mr. Farrell felt that Chairman Feighan of the House Immigration Sub-committee might attempt to block Rodino's Bill because of Feighan's opposition to Rodino; conversations were had with Fred Mesmer, Staff Director of Senate Immigration Sub-committee. [redacted] Legislative Counsel and the undersigned met with Mr. Mesmer on 25 January 1966 and told him that we were seeking his advice as to the necessity for having a bill like HR 10-400 introduced in the Senate, possibly by Senator Eastland. After Mr. Mesmer read HR 10-400, he stated that he did not recommend such action and he knew that Senator Eastland would not introduce such a bill because he does not introduce general immigration bills. It was Mr. Mesmer's feeling that the Agency would be better advised to let the Rodino Bill proceed in its normal course and not attempt to do anything on the Senate side unless or until some opposition appeared on the House side to the Rodino Bill. He said that it was better for this type of bill to originate and be passed by the House. He also said that he did not believe, even if the Senate did have such a bill introduced and passed, that it would make any difference on the House side. Mr. Mesmer again stated that although he was not trying to tell the Agency how to proceed in this situation, it was his opinion that no action should be taken on the Senate side until after the House had taken action on the Rodino Bill. He did suggest that if the Agency felt that some personal influence was needed to ensure that Congressman Feighan did not oppose or block the Bill, that it might be a good idea for Congressman Rodino to approach someone on the Senate side to introduce a bill and that the someone

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on the Senate side should possibly be one who is friendly with Congressman Feighan. Mr. Mesmer stated that he did not believe that Congressman Feighan would oppose the Rodino Bill just because it was introduced by Rodino, even though Rodino is known to be somewhat of a backer of Celler.

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